Abstract of the Disclosure

A device and method for joining a severed sternum is disclosed. The device includes first and second bearing members, a sternum joining member having an axis and first and second ends, the first end connected to the first bearing member, the second bearing member adapted to engage the sternum joining member, and the sternum joining member is adapted to traverse the exposed cancellous surfaces of the sternal portions. The method includes moving the second bearing member along the axis of the sternum joining member toward the first bearing member, with the sternum joining member traversing the cancellous surfaces of both sternal portions, and securing the second bearing member on the axis of the sternum joining member so that the severed sternum is securely closed. A kit including sternal closure devices and other tools for closing a sternotomy is also disclosed.

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